

The Good News of the Gospel Part 1

[5]

-The Magnitude of the Cross-

** Remember to Pray for Wisdom Before You Begin*

INTRODUCTION: To understand the magnitude and the immensity of the cross of Christ we need to understand some of the greatness and majesty of our God and the type of sacrifice He had to make in order to save us. We will look first at some of the physical aspects of the glory of God and how He is wrapped in eternal fiery flames of immense glory!! Then we will look at some of the infinite qualities and traits of our all-powerful Creator and God. After this we will look at what the Son of God had to give up to come to this world in the likeness of sinful flesh and then die one of the cruelest forms of death ever devised by demon inspired men!

1.) How does the Bible describe the incredible physical glory of God? Hebrews 12:29 *For our God is a consuming _____.* Exodus 24:17 *And the _____ of the _____ of the LORD was like devouring _____ on the top of the mount in the _____ of the children of Israel.* Isaiah 33:14b *Who among us shall dwell with the devouring _____? who among us shall dwell with everlasting _____?* Daniel 7:9 *I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the _____, and his wheels as burning _____.* Exodus 3:2 *And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a _____ of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush _____ with _____, and the bush was not consumed.* Psalm 50:3 *Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a _____ shall devour before him, and it shall be very _____ round about him.* **NOTE: In all these verses it appears that the physical glory of God is a radiating glorious fire that would be breathtaking to behold! Is this a manifestation of the infinite energy that is emanating from Him who has unlimited power, Who is all-knowing, and eternally existing? There are many things about our God that will ever remain a mystery to finite creatures. What hasn't been revealed to us through His inspired word we do best to keep silent and accept by faith what He has revealed.**

2.) How did Isaiah and John the Revelator describe God on His eternal throne? Isaiah 6:1 *In the year that king Uzziah died I _____ also the _____ sitting upon a _____, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.* 2 *Above it stood the _____: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.* 3 *And one cried unto another, and said, _____, _____, _____, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is _____ of his glory.* 4 *And the posts of the door _____ at the _____ of him that cried, and the house was filled with _____.* Revelation 4:2 *And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a _____ was set in heaven, and _____ sat on the throne.* 3 *And he that sat was to look*

upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. **5** And out of the throne proceeded _____ and _____ and voices: and there were seven _____ of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven _____ of God. **NOTE: Practically any prophet or Bible writer who was given a vision of God's throne or any angel or living being who were privileged to see what it is like, describe it with holy awe!! Keep in mind that this is the throne room of the Almighty Ruler of the universe! What is the reaction of the living creatures and the twenty-four elders when they behold God and the LAMB (Jesus, the Son of God) on the throne? Revelation 5:13** And _____ creature which is in _____, and on the _____, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, _____, and _____, and _____, and _____, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the _____ for ever and ever. **14** And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders _____ down and _____ him that liveth for ever and ever.

3.) Moses made an unusual request. What was this request and how did God answer or respond to it? Exodus 33:18 And he said, I beseech thee, _____ me thy _____. **19** And he said, I will make all my _____ pass before thee, and I will proclaim the _____ of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. **20** And he said, Thou canst _____ see my _____: for there shall no _____ see me, and _____. **21** And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: **22** And it shall come to pass, while my _____ passeth by, that I will _____ thee in a _____ of the rock, and will _____ thee with my hand while I _____ by: **23** And I will take _____ mine hand, and thou shalt see my _____ parts: but my _____ shall _____ be seen. **NOTE: Mortal man can have no conception of the immense glory of God. Unprotected he (sinful man) might even be vaporized or consumed in the immediate presence of the Almighty God. Note how the word "LORD" all in capital letters in the Hebrew is actually the name of "Jehovah." If you go to [1 Corinthians ch. 10] in the NT the apostle Paul basically says it was Jesus that led in Israel's wilderness wanderings. This may have been Jesus the Son of God in His pre-incarnate form that Moses asked to see and experience for himself. It may appear that Moses was brave and even bold to ask such a request of God, but keep in mind that Moses had a very close, intimate relationship with God by this time and God honored His request but only up to a point so Moses wouldn't be harmed.**

4.) After Moses made this unusual request to see God, what did God proclaim about Himself after revealing Himself to Moses? Exodus 34:5 And the LORD _____ in the cloud, and _____ with him there, and _____ the _____ of the LORD. **6** And the LORD _____ by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, _____ and _____, _____, and abundant in _____ and _____, **7** Keeping mercy for _____, forgiving iniquity and _____ and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity

of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. **8** And Moses made _____, and _____ his head toward the earth, and _____. **NOTE: The most awesome thing about our God is His glorious character! 1 John 4:8, 16** He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is _____. **16** And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. _____ is _____; and he that dwelleth in _____ dwelleth in God, and God in him. **NOTE: The very characteristic of "love" is unselfish benevolence, goodness and kindness toward another being even if that being is undeserving. It seeks only the best good of the other. With this principle of "love" in operation throughout the universe, the universe is safe and secure. The highest happiness, pleasure and joy are present when "love" is reigning supreme.**

5.) What does the Bible say about the infinite greatness and power of God? Psalm 145:3

_____ is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is _____.

Romans 11:33 O the _____ of the riches both of the _____ and _____ of God! how _____ are his judgments, and his ways _____ finding out! **Job 37:23** Touching the Almighty, we _____ find him out: he is excellent in _____, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict.

Psalm 86:10 For thou art _____, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.

Psalm 147:5 Great is our Lord, and of great _____: his understanding is _____. **Matthew 19:26** But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With _____ this is impossible; but with God _____ things are _____. **NOTE: Human words are inadequate to describe the incredible greatness of God!! When an atom is split, think of the incredible energy that is released!! God put that there. Think of the mighty galaxies in space that are thousands of light years in scope. (A light year is the distance light can travel in a year going 186,000 miles per second.) The immensity of the created cosmos is practically beyond human comprehension!**

6.) What does the scriptures say about God being able to be in all places at the same time?

[Omnipresent] Jeremiah 23:24 Can any _____ himself in _____ places that I shall not _____ him? saith the LORD. Do not I _____ heaven and earth? saith the LORD. **Psalm 139:7** Whither shall I go from thy _____? or whither shall I _____ from thy _____? **8** If I ascend up into _____, thou art there: if I make my _____ in hell, behold, thou _____ there. **9** If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the _____ parts of the _____; **10** Even there shall thy hand _____ me, and thy right hand shall hold _____. **11** If I say, Surely the _____ shall cover me; even the night shall be _____ about me. **12** Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth _____ the day: the darkness and the light are both _____ to thee. **1 Kings 8:27** But will _____ indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens _____ contain thee; how much _____ this house that I have builded?

7.) Does God know all things including everything about me [Omniscient]? Psalm 139:1 O

LORD, thou hast searched me, and _____ me. **2** Thou knowest my downsitting and mine

uprising, thou understandest my _____ afar off. **3** Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with _____ my ways. **4** For there is not a _____ in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it _____. **Hebrews 4:13** Neither is there any creature that is not _____ in his _____: but all things are naked and _____ unto the _____ of him with whom we have to do. **Luke 12:7** But _____ the very _____ of your head are all _____. . . . **NOTE: It seems that everything about God is infinite. As the Word of God says, "His ways are past finding out." He is acquainted with all parts of His creation with nothing that is beneath His notice. Obviously, God has all knowledge and understanding by the fact that He could (in six literal days) create our whole world with all the vegetation, animals, minerals made up of all the complex elements with all the seemingly endless varieties and functions with everything operating perfectly within its complexity!! This is mind boggling!! Somehow God must have had a blueprint plan of each organism at least in His infinite mind. And now we know He did through the science of DNA. The most brilliant scientists are baffled and mystified by this most vast, compact information storage unit in the known universe! By the way, the Bible states that it was Jesus who was the main Agent who created.**

8.) What does the Bible say about God's beginning or ending? Psalm 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even _____ everlasting _____ everlasting, thou art _____. **1Timothy 1:17** Now unto the King _____, _____, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. **1Timothy 6:16** Who _____ hath _____, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power _____. Amen. **Isaiah 57:15** For thus saith the high and lofty One that _____ eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. **NOTE: As stated in the first text God is without any beginning and will ever exist in the future without any ending. We may not comprehend that, but that is OK, for that is what God's inspired Word says. The last scripture listed here from Isaiah is rather interesting! Notice the two words "inhabiteth eternity." If you look at the Hebrew word for "inhabiteth," it is "Shakan" which says "idea of lodging; to reside or permanently stay (literally or figuratively): --abide." Is this suggesting that God dwells in all realms of time –past, present and future? This might explain why He knows the future even with detail -if He is indeed already there. One thing for sure, He does know the future and He rules over "time" itself!**

9.) Does God know the future and what will happen in the future? Isaiah 42:9 Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: _____ they spring forth I _____ you of them. **Isaiah 46:9, 10** Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is _____ else; I am God, and there is none _____ me, **10** Declaring the _____ from the _____, and from ancient times the things that are not _____ done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: **And what Jesus Himself said.**

John 14:29 And now I have told you _____ it come to pass, that, when it is come to _____, ye might _____. **Daniel 2:45** Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the _____ God hath made _____ to the king what _____ come to pass hereafter: and the dream is _____, and the interpretation thereof _____. **NOTE: Only God truly knows what will happen in the future. He is not taken by surprise by anything. He sees the future as clearly as the present. This is why He (even Jesus) is called the great "I AM."**

10.) What is by far the most marvelous, most important attribute and characteristic of God?

1John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for _____ is _____.

11.) What is the most evident proof of God's glorious self-sacrificing love? Philippians 2:5

Let this mind be in you, which was also in _____: **6** Who, being in the _____ of God, thought it _____ robbery to be _____ with God: **7** But made himself of no _____, and took upon him the form of a _____, and was made in the likeness of _____: **8** And being found in _____ as a man, he _____ himself, and became obedient unto _____, even the _____ of the cross.

12.) What did Lucifer (before he became Satan) aspire to be? Notice the contrast of his

character when compared with Jesus the Son of God. Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O _____, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! **13** For thou hast said in thine _____, I will ascend into _____, I will _____ my throne _____ the stars of _____: I will sit also upon the _____ of the congregation, in the sides of the _____: **14** I will ascend above the _____ of the clouds; I will be _____ the most _____. **NOTE: Satan aspired through pride and selfishness to be in God's position.}**

1] I will ascend into heaven

2] I will exalt my throne

3] I will sit on the mount

4] I will ascend above

5] I will be like the Most High

The heavenly Father and Jesus loved the fallen human race so much that Jesus was willing to humbly take step after step down in order to rescue us!

1] He made Himself of no reputation

2] Took the form of a bondservant

3] Came in the likeness of man (human flesh)

4] Became obedient unto death

5] Even the death of the cross (one of worst ways to die)

Do you see the contrast between these two beings? Look around and see the huge mess that Satan has made of this world. We don't have to look around very much to see the

horrible ugliness of sin with all its lies, murder, pain, suffering, heartache, and sorrow in its most sickening form! Who would you rather follow and emulate? The answer should be obvious! In light of what you've studied thus far in this lesson, when Jesus stepped way down, down, down, He was willing to go to the lowest depths to save us! The picture is clear! We serve a God Who loves us so very much!! He is a God of the highest, purest, and deepest love. A God Who is absolutely unselfish but at the same time is of the straightest, noblest and most unswerving justice!

13.) When Jesus came down to this world as a tiny [human] baby, what was one of the traits of Divinity that He gave up? Luke 2:52 And Jesus _____ in _____ and stature, and in favour with God and man. NOTE: How could He (Jesus) increase in wisdom if He already had it? He had to in many respects start all over again and learn as every child of humanity has had to grow –physically and mentally. In His pre-incarnate state the Son of God was omniscient (all-knowing). Notice Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour _____ no man, no, not the _____ of heaven, but my Father _____. John 5:30 I can of _____ own _____ do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the _____ of the _____ which hath sent me.

14.) Psalm 22 is considered a Messianic prophecy of Jesus. What do verses 9 and 10 say about His birth as a baby into this world? Psalm 22:9 But thou art he that _____ me out of the _____: thou didst make me _____ when I was upon my _____ breasts. 10 I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my _____ from my mother's belly. NOTE: Incredible condescension!! Even before this He allowed Himself to be conceived as a tiny seed by the Holy Ghost! "Thou didst make Me hope when I was upon My mother's breasts" During this time and as a tiny, helpless infant He was at the mercy of an earthly human parent. The protestant reformer Martin Luther made this amazing statement. "The mystery of the humanity of Christ, that He sunk Himself into our flesh, is beyond all human understanding." How about this Illustration: Lying at your feet is your dog. Imagine, for a moment, that your dog and every dog is in deep distress. Some of us love dogs very much. If it would help all the dogs in the world to become like men (humans), would you be willing to become a dog? Would you put down your human nature, leave your loved ones, your job, hobbies, your art, literature and music, and choose instead of the intimate communion with your beloved, the poor substitute of looking into your beloved's face and wagging your tail, unable to smile or speak? Christ by becoming a man limited Himself in a way that we'll probably never fully understand!

15.) What was Jesus willing to exchange for us so we could be happy and set free from sin? 2Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, _____ he was _____, yet for _____ sakes he became _____, that ye through his _____ might be _____. NOTE: The Gospel is good news that we should rejoice in and desire to share with others. If we accept this provision and are adopted

**into the family of God we are promised that we will be heirs of the riches of the universe!
This is mind-boggling!! How can we ever go wrong on this!**

16.) What other passage of scripture in the NT do we see the condescension of Jesus the Son of God and what He has done for us? Hebrews 2:6 *But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is _____, that thou art _____ of him? or the son of man, that thou _____ him? 7 Thou madest him a little _____ than the _____; thou crownedst him with glory and _____, and didst set him _____ the works of thy hands: 8 Thou hast put _____ things in subjection _____ his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left _____ that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. 9 But we see _____, who was made a little _____ than the _____ for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should _____ death for _____ man. **NOTE: Notice the last part of verse 9. How that Jesus “should taste death for every man.” Since the penalty for our sins is eternal death or the “2nd death,” Jesus would taste or experience the horrors of being separated from His Father for eternity which from His human standpoint faced the prospect of never coming out of the tomb again. Hence, we see His gut-wrenching cry on the cross, “My God, My God why hast Thou forsaken Me!!!” He started experiencing this separation back in the Garden of Gethsemane. Now Praise God that Jesus was raised from the tomb, ascended to the throne of His heavenly Father and is now interceding in our behalf. We serve a risen Savior!! Scripture says that He should “taste” death for every man. Justice demanded that in His humanity He should go through this “black hole” experience so that He could be a substitute for every repentant soul.***

17.) God wants us to see the magnitude of the cross. Our hearts should be so melted and broken in penitence with overwhelming gratitude for what Jesus has done for us that we will desire to become His forever! How is this stated in Zechariah 12:10? *And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of _____ and of _____: and they shall _____ upon me whom they have _____, and they shall _____ for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in _____ for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. **NOTE: The “house of David” and the “inhabitants of Jerusalem” are synonymous with God’s chosen people and His church. This is a prophecy saying how God wants to bring a deep heart-felt revival to His people in these last days. Once we catch a penetrating glimpse into what Jesus has really done for us, our whole Christian experience will change dramatically into one that will set us on fire for the gospel and we will long to share the Good News with others regardless the cost!***

Brief Quiz

Circle One

1.) True/False – The physical glory of God is like a consuming fire.

- 2.) **True/False** – God is rather limited in His understanding of the future.
- 3.) **True/False** – God has unlimited power.
- 4.) **True/False** – The Son of God was very hesitant and reluctant to step way down to this world and become a man.
- 5.) **True/False** – The cross is the greatest demonstration of the love of God to the stricken human race.
- 6.) **True/False** – The Bible gives a vivid contrast between God’s character and Satan’s character.
- 7.) **True/False** – The term “I AM” has no significant meaning to it.
- 8.) **True/False** – God desires us to look at His immense sacrifice for us and be broken in heart so that revival will take place within us.

My Response

The character, power and sovereignty of God is wonderful and marvelous! I appreciate and desire to put my trust in Jesus who was willing to give up so much for me so that I could be rescued from sin and eternal death.

Signed _____